LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
SANITARY
CONDITIONS

of the Rural District of
VAYNOR & PENDERYN
in the County of Brecknock,

for the Year,

1942

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
16 SEP 1943

By . .
W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District of Vaynor and Penderyn in the County of Brecknock, for the Year 1942

BY

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

H. W. SOUTHEY & SONS LTD., PRINTERS, MERTHYR.

Vaynor & Penderyn Rural District Council

Chairman, 1942—43 :

Councillor DANIEL E. WATKINS, J.P.

Members :

Alderman DAVID HARRIS, J.P.
Councillor EVAN L. LEWIS.
" TUDOR S. DAVIES.
" ISAAC MORRIS.
" W. G. ECKLEY.
" IDRIS SILVANUS.
" DANIEL JENKINS.
" PENRY MORRIS.
" Rev. MORGAN JONES.

Clerk :

Mr. FRANK T. JAMES (died February, 1942).
Mr. RONALD H. ROSE,
25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Medical Officer :

Dr. W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
The Hollies, Merthyr Tydfil.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. W. G. BOND, A.R.S.I.,
25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Deputy (temporary during illness of Mr. W. G. Bond) :

Mr. K. P. LLEWELLYN, A.R.S.I.

Treasurers :

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED,
Merthyr Tydfil.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE VAYNOR AND PENDERYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

As directed by the Ministry of Health, I beg to report a restricted record of the state of the Public Health of this Rural District during the year 1942.

It has to be noted that certain particulars furnished in past years as to alterations in population and other matters are not given. But the estimates of the Registrar General are accepted in determining the Death Rate and Birth Rate and similar matters. In general, it has to be reported that the public health has continued very satisfactory during the year, and I cannot report any evidence of general mal-nutrition. The figures as to Infectious Disease published in this report are below the average, and much below those for last year.

Topography.—There has been no alteration of the area, which in all covers about 60 square miles; the greater part of it is agricultural and lying on the hilly escarpment of the Brecon Beacons, at heights from 263ft. to 2,250ft. above sea level. It will be realised that sheep farming and cattle raising are the chief agricultural occupations, as there is little arable land. Most labour is sought in the surrounding districts, where collieries, quarries, and other industries are carried on.

Population.—No information can be published as to this, nor can I furnish the number of inhabited and unoccupied houses at 30th September last year as I have usually given, but the census returns on these points are accessible to you in former reports.

RATEABLE VALUE AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1942.

Parish of Vaynor	£19,458
Parish of Penderyn	£13,346
Parish of Ystradfellte ...	£6,498
Total	£39,302

PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE.

Parish of Vaynor ...	...	£78	9 1
Parish of Penderyn	...	£55	8 11
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£27	1 6
Total ...	...	£160	19 6

POPULATION (Census Return).

Census, 1931.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Penderyn ...	973 ...	885 ...	1,858
Vaynor	1,544 ...	1,619 ...	3,163
Ystradfellte ...	341 ...	309 ...	650
			5,671

Census	Year **1901**	Year **1911**	Year **1921**	Year **1931**
Vaynor and Penderyn ...	4,766 ...	5,526 ...	5,674 ...	5,021
Ystradfellte	— ...	627 ...	613 ...	650

The decrease from 1921 to 1931 of the three parishes was 9.8 per cent.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The Births registered in the district in 1942 numbered 76 (36 male, 40 female), the annual birth rate being 14.8 per 1,000. The county rate in 1941 was 13,65; the rate in this district in 1941 was 12.3. The rate recorded for England and Wales for 1942 was 15.8. Of the total births in the area, 1 male was illegitimate.

Still-births.—These numbered 7, one being illegitimate, the rate per 1,000 of the population being 1.3; this is double the County rate for 1941.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths assigned to this district was 61 (31 males, 30 females); this figure takes into account 16 inward and 1 outward transfers. The annual rate of deaths for 1942 was 11.8—in the previous year it was 15.8; the County rate was 13.55. The Death rate for England and Wales was provisionally stated to be 1.6 per 1,000 in 1942.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.—These numbered 7, the same number as in the year previous. These were all legitimate infants; there were 3 males and 4 females, the rate per 1,000 births being 92. The rate for the County in 1941 was 60.2. The deaths of 2 were attributed to premature birth and 3 to mal-formation at birth.

Deaths Under Two Years of Age from Diarrhoea.—There was no death recorded.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or Other Death from Maternal Causes Registered.—There were none under this heading.

Deaths from Cancer.—Deaths from all forms of Cancer remain high, numbering 9, a little lower than last year, when they were 13; again the number of females exceeded males, the female deaths bing 6 and mals 3. In the County of Brecon in 1941 such deaths numbered 48. Continued research has done little to combat this distressing feature in the vital statistics of the country. In the County of Brecon the deaths from Cancer outnumbered the deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis in 1941.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases—There were none except one from pneumonia. There was no death from any form of Tuberculosis registered in the district during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Influenza	1	0
Cancer	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	2
Heart Disease	9	8
Bronchitis	4	3
Pneumonia and Respiratory ...	3	0
Digestive Disease	0	1
Nephritis	0	1
Premature and Infants	1	4
Violent Causes	1	0
Other Causes	5	5
Totals	31	30

General Sickness.—It is satisfactory to report that the record of the district in this respect continues to be favourable; the

Death Rate is lower, and there is no evidence that war-time restrictions have had ony unfavourable effect on the public health.

At the end of the year a British Restaurant was established at Cefn Coed.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers.—The Medical Officer has the D.P.H. qualification. The Sanitary Inspectors, both Mr. W. G. Bond (who was ill during a great part of the year) and a deputy appointed, possessed the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Mr. Bond was also Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor. There is one clerk to assist in these duties.

Laboratory Service.—The Public Analyst and Bacteriologist, Mr. R. Pendrill Charles, F.C.S., is consulted as to water analysis and to furnish bacteriological reports ; and samples of milk are submitted for reports to University College, Aberystwyth.

Ambulance Facilities.—These are available from Merthyr and Aberdare Hospitals, and cases for Mardy Isolation Hospital are conveyed by their ambulance. There have been complaints that the provision for the more remote Parish of Ystradfellte is not satisfactory, and efforts are being made to secure improvement.

Nursing at Home.—This is undertaken by voluntary associations, assisted by grants from the County Council.

Clinics are carried on by the County Council for expectant mothers and infant welfare at Cefn and Penderyn.

Hospitals.—Good provision is made in this respect by the General Hospitals at Merthyr and Aberdare, as stated in my last report ; there is also the Public Institution Hospital at Brecon. With regard to hospitals for infectious diseases, an arrangement exists whereby cases are admitted to Mardy Hospital at Merthyr, pending the provision of a joint hospital for the County at Brecon, which is to be erected when peace is restored.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The District is in the fortunate position of being furnished with a good supply of water from the mains of Taf Fechan Board and Aberdare. A supply has been provided by the Council for Penderyn and Ystradfellte. Samples of all the waters are sent for analysis regularly and, when not in all

respects satisfactory, steps are taken to remove the cause of complaint, and followed up if attention is not paid.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.—The Council has now provided drainage and sewage disposal works for all the villages in the area except the very small village of Ystradfellte, which was being undertaken when the outbreak of war necessarily suspended operations. These various works are operating in a satisfactory manner except Hirwaun, which is out of date but has had attention during the year, resulting in some improvement.

Refuse Collection.—This is continued throughout the district, but owing to labour difficulty, not daily as heretofore. A collection by motor lorries has now been commenced. The provision of an incinerator at Hirwaun is recommended by me as one of the first things to be undertaken when the was is over.

Milk, Meat, and Other Foods.—Attention has been given to the regular inspection. With particular reference to the production of Milk, many of the farms are not up to the standard desired, and it is difficult under existing circumstances to obtain improvement, as the tenants and not the owners of the farms are liable, and in two cases, for instance, the producer at once gave up the occupation when served with notice in the matter. Other foods have been reasonably satisfactory.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1942.

Disase.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	5	0	0
Diphtheria	5	5	0
Entric Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	0
Erysipelas	1	1	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	0
Measles	1	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	8	0	0

These figures are much below those for last year.

HOUSING.

As a result of house-to-house inspection, it was before the war ascertained that 202 new houses would be required to be provided to replace unfit houses and overcrowded dwellings. The Council took steps to erect these, and 102 houses were erected and occupied; there remained 100 to be proceeded with, plans for which were in progress or completed, and the necessary land secured, when the outbreak of war caused a halt of the work for the time being. It is probable that a further survey, in the light of a higher standard being sought, will show that the number of new houses required will be increased.

IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children under 5 years and those between the ages of 5 to 15, which was started in 1941, was continued in 1942. During the year 840 children were done out of an estimated population (1 to 15) of 1,450, i.e., 58 per cent. I find that up to 30th June, 1943, 1,097 have been immunised out of an estimated population of these children of about 1,450, which is 75.6 per cent. The population referred to is largely static, infants arriving over 1 year of age being balanced by others reaching over 15 years. I think that the objection shown at first by parents is being overcome.

Schools.—There has been no alteration as regards the schools arrangements, which are generally satisfactory except at Pontsticill, where I think a new school should replace the out-dated present buildings.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME		£	s.	d.
BALANCE brought forward from 31st March, 1941		3921	4	4½
Rate Income—				
General Expenses chargeable on whole district, including additional items of General Rates		30554	7	5
Special Rates		1485	13	9
Water Rates and Charges (Penderyn)		80	11	0
Water Charges (Ystradfellte)		0	6	0
Ministry of Health—				
Parochial Exchequer Grants		191	10	0
Exchequer Grant—Capitation Sum		63	0	0
Tithe Act Grant		279	6	1
Government Evacuation Scheme—Reimbursement		1142	15	8
Ministry of Labour—				
Grant—Penderyn Waterworks		97	12	8
County Council—				
Salaries of Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector—Grant ...		239	16	0
Proportion of Parochial Exchequer Grants		113	15	0
A.R.P.—Reimbursement of Expenditure		6	8	1
Other Income—				
Rental of Garden—Cefn Sewage Works	£0 6 0			
Sale of Hay do.	3 5 0			
		3	11	0
Rent of Garden—Cefn Isaf		0	1	0
Receipts from Public Conveniences		3	9	11
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts		12	13	8
Sale of Salvage		19	6	10
Searches—Land Charges Registry		1	7	6
Petrol Licences		5	5	0
Bank Interest		18	8	4
Miscellaneous Income		21	6	7
		£38261	15	10½

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1942.—Part I.

EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
Due Under Precepts—				
Breconshire County Council		25610	1	3
Breconshire Assessment Committee		40	17	10
Vaynor Parish Council		30	0	0
Penderyn Parish Council		30	0	0
Ystradfellte Parish Council		80	19	3
Other Expenses—				
Cefn Coed Sewage Works—Working Expenses		397	14	10
Pontsticill Sewage Works—Working Expenses ...	£148 11 10			
do. do. Loan and Interest ...	100 5 3			
		248	17	1
Hirwaun Sewage Works—Working Expenses ...	190 7 4			
do. (Housing Scheme) Loan & Interest	8 13 4			
		199	0	8
Ystradfellte Sewage—Working Expenses		1	10	0
Penderyn Sewage Works—Working Expenses ...	90 12 8			
do. do. Loan and Interest ...	196 2 7			
		286	15	3
Pontneathvaughan Sewage Works—Working Exes.	176 11 3			
do. do. Loan & Interest	130 3 7			
		306	14	10
Penderyn Waterworks—Working Expenses ...	168 8 9			
do. do. Loan and Interest ...	288 19 8			
		457	8	5
Cross Bychan Water Supply—Loan and Interest...		9	9	10
Penderyn Water (Ogof Fawr) do. ...		129	18	9
Children's Playing Field, Cefn Coed—Expenses ...	2 2 6			
do. do. do. Loan & Interest	8 5 0			
		10	7	6
Financial Adjustment—Loan and Interest ...	... ...	458	6	4
Notification of Disease and General Disinfection	... ...	49	9	1
Salaries, etc.—Health Services	... ...	733	15	6
Scavenging—Vaynor Parish	427 3 5			
do. Penderyn Parish	158 14 0			
do. Ystradfellte Parish	50 3 4			
		636	0	9
Public Conveniences—Ystradfellte	15 9 2			
do. do. Pontsticill	2 11 3			
do. do. Pontsarn	1 11 0			
		19	11	5
Maintenance of Fever Patients		494	7	0
Diphtheria Immunisation		162	15	0
Return of Births and Deaths		1	17	8
Brecon Isolation Hospital—Contribution		36	13	10
Public Lighting—Vaynor Parish	216 2 0			
do. Penderyn Parish	107 18 0			
		324	0	0
Fire Brigades		335	7	6
Additional Rate Fund Contrn.—Housing Rev. A/c.	12 11 3			
Annual Contribution do. ...	319 16 9			
		332	8	0
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts		15	17	0
Salaries of Officers		345	8	0
Valuation Expenses		217	2	3½
Telephone Kiosk, Cefn Coed		2	2	0
Yard and Shed Rentals		15	16	0
Establishment Charges		246	16	4
Salvage—Cost of Collection		36	5	5
War Damage Contribution		87	16	10
Cost of Collection—General Rate	686 12 1			
do. Special Rate	34 5 10			
		720	17	11
Brecon County Council—Superannuation Fund ...		76	8	3
Allotments		23	13	3
Air Raid Precautions		77	15	1½
Miscellaneous Payments—National Insurances ...	38 5 10			
do. Vaynor Nursing Assoc'n	30 0 0			
do. Other Payments	30 13 2			
		98	19	0
Ystradfellte Water Supply—Working Expenses ...		30	2	8
Government Evacuation Scheme		1142	15	8
BALANCE carried forward		3699	12	6½
		£38261	15	10½

INCOME.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances brought forward—		
Water Supply	0 6 0	
Playing Field	31 18 9	
Housing	1803 19 9	
		1836 4 6
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts—		
Repayment of Advances		13 0 0
Housing—		
Loans raised	308 0 0	
Revenue and Special Accounts ...	587 0 4	
		895 0 4
Sewerage Works—		
Loans raised	252 0 0	
Government Grant	209 16 8	
		461 16 8
Balances carried forward—		
Small Dwellings Acquisition ...		8 13 4
		£3214 14 10

Audited and found correct,

A. R. PARR,

24th July, 1942. Assistant District Auditor.

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances brought forward—		
Sewerage	83 11 8	
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	4 6 8	
		87 18 4
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts—		
Capital Expenditure		17 6 8
Housing—		
Expended on Works, etc.	504 4 11	
Revenue and Special Accounts ...	47 4 8	
		551 9 7
Sewerage Works—		
Repaid to Lenders		322 3 4
Water Supply—		
Written off		0 6 0
Balances carried forward—		
Sewerage Works	56 1 8	
Playing Field	31 18 9	
Housing	2147 10 6	
		2235 10 11
		£3214 14 10

RONALD H. ROSE,

Chief Financial Officer.

1st April, 1942.